

EXERCISE

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NOT A REAL WORLD EVENT *This is part of an asteroid threat exercise conducted during the 2015 IAA Planetary Defense Conference.*

DAY 3

PRESS RELEASE: DECEMBER 27, 2016

ASTEROID 2015 PDC IMPACT NOW CERTAIN

Based on new tracking observations obtained over the last month, IAWN has determined that asteroid 2015PDC is on a course that will definitely impact Earth on September 3, 2022. While the exact location of the impact cannot yet be determined, unless the asteroid is deflected, it will impact somewhere along the risk corridor defined by the red dots on the image below.



Nations currently at risk from direct effects should there be a land impact or an airburst are: Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Turkey.

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Nations at risk from a tsunami in the Pacific or South China Sea include all those with coasts on those bodies of water, including Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Russia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and all island nations and territories in the Pacific. Weaker tsunamis may propagate into other ocean basins but are not expected to be dangerous. The probability and consequence-weighted risk is greatest for equatorial western Pacific nations (Southeast Asia and Oceania).

IAWN emphasizes that until a more extensive set of tracking observations is available, the specific location of the impact point will not be known. The asteroid will be observable through the first half of 2017 and in late 2018/early 2019, although large telescopes will be required to make these observations. World leaders are meeting in Frascati, Italy to assess options for deflecting the object and to initiate planning for emergency response and humanitarian aid in case of an impact.

For more information, visit: <http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/pdc15/day3.html>

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